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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/785,200	02/24/2004	Francois P. Hauville	FIPAK-4	8812

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EXAMINER

KIM, YOON YOUNG

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1723

DATE MAILED: 02/16/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/785,200

Applicant(s)

HAUVILLE, FRANCOIS P.

Examiner

Yoon-Young Kim

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 October 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 25 October 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-3 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Schnell, U.S. Patent No. 4,159,250.

Regarding Claim 1, Schnell discloses a fluid filtration assembly comprising at least one filtration module, the module comprising first (#26) and second (#28) housing members connectable together to form a recess adapted to receive a filter unit (#24), each of the housing members being provided with a collection chamber (Fig. 4, #54; Fig. 10, #54') having first and second openings aligned with each other, and a wall portion extending outwardly from the chamber and defining one wall of the recess when the housing members are connected together, the one wall being spaced from the filter unit, and wherein the first and second openings are each adapted to serve as a fluid inlet, the walls permitting fluid flow therebetween and through the filter unit, and the first and second openings are each adapted to serve as a fluid outlet (Col. 5, Lines 47-50), whereby to provide an assembly having increased ease of manufacture, reduced cost and reduced size (Col. 1, Line 58 – Col. 2, Line 7).

Regarding Claim 2, Schnell discloses that the filtration module housing members are of substantially identical configuration (Col. 3, Lines 40-43) and are connected to each other in

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reversed, head-to-tail configuration to form the recess which is adapted to receive the filter unit (Fig. 1).

Regarding Claim 3, Schnell discloses that each of the housing members has an L-shaped configuration (Fig. 3).

Regarding Claim 6, Schnell discloses that one of the housing members, when the housing members are assembled to form a module, directs the inflow of the fluid to be treated towards the filter unit, while the other of the housing members directs the treated fluid to outside of the module (Col. 5, Lines 47-50).

3. Claims 1-3 and 6-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Huber, U.S. Patent No. 2,143,270.

Regarding Claim 1, Huber discloses a fluid filtration assembly comprising at least one filtration module, the module comprising first (#17) and second (#18) housing members connectable together to form a recess adapted to receive a filter unit (#20), each of the housing members being provided with a collection chamber (#34) having first and second openings aligned with each other, and a wall portion (#22) extending outwardly from the chamber and defining one wall of the recess when the housing members are connected together, the one wall being spaced from the filter unit, and wherein the first and second openings are each adapted to serve as a fluid inlet, the walls permitting fluid flow therebetween and through the filter unit, and the first and second openings are each adapted to serve as a fluid outlet (Col. 2, Line 53 – Col. 3, Line 2), whereby to provide an assembly having increased ease of manufacture, reduced cost and reduced size (Col. 1, Lines 4-20).

Regarding Claim 2, Huber discloses that the filtration module housing members are of substantially identical configuration (Fig. 7, 8) and are connected to each other in reversed, head-to-tail configuration to form the recess which is adapted to receive the filter unit.

Regarding Claim 3, Huber discloses that each of the housing members have an L-shaped configuration (Fig. 5, #17, 18).

Regarding Claim 6, Huber discloses that one of the housing members, when the housing members are assembled to form a module, directs the inflow of the fluid to be treated towards the filter unit, while the other of the housing members directs the treated fluid to outside of the module (Fig. 1).

Regarding Claim 7, Huber each of the housing members includes an opening which collects the inflow of fluid and a further opening which directs the outflow of fluid (Fig. 3, #34), thus allowing input of fluids to be treated, and output of treated fluids, the capacity of the assembly depending upon the number of the modules disposed in the assembly (Pg. 2, Col. 1, Lines 70-73).

Regarding Claim 8, Huber discloses that the output of fluids treated is rendered variable by selection of the number of the filtration modules in the assembly (Col. 3, Lines 70-73).

Regarding Claim 9, Huber discloses a fluid filtration assembly comprising: at least one filtration module, the module comprising: the first housing member (#17) comprising a first collection chamber (#23) in communication with a first wall (#22) extending therefrom, the first housing member having a first fluid inlet and a first fluid outlet respectively in opposed walls of the first collection chamber and in alignment with each other; a second housing member (#18) comprising a second collection chamber (#23) in communication with a second wall (#22) extending therefrom, the second housing member having a second fluid inlet and a second fluid outlet, respectively, in opposed walls of the second collection chamber and in alignment with

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each other; the first and second collection chambers and the first and second walls defining a recess for receiving and retaining a filter unit (#20); wherein one of the fluid inlets is open to receive fluid flow and one of the fluid outlets is open to discharge filtered fluid; wherein the received fluid flows through one of the collection chambers, along one of the walls, through the filter unit, along the other of the walls, through the other of the collection chambers, and out of the module through the fluid outlet open to discharge fluid (Fig. 1), whereby to provide an assembly having increased ease of manufacture, reduced cost and reduced size (Col. 1, Lines 4-20).

Regarding Claim 10, Huber discloses that the first and second housing members are essentially duplicative of each other and are connectable together in inverse, head-to-tail configuration to form the recess, the housing members being connectable to each other with the first collection chamber of the first housing member adjacent a free end of the second wall, and the second collection chamber of the second housing member adjacent a free end of the first wall (Fig. 7, 8).

Regarding Claim 11, Huber discloses that each of the housing members have an L-shaped configuration (Fig. 5, #17, 18).

Regarding Claim 12, Huber discloses that the module comprises a filter unit (#20).

Regarding Claims 13-14, Huber discloses additional filtration modules of construction substantially identical to the filtration module and connectable thereto (Fig. 6).

Regarding Claim 15, Huber discloses that the fluid inlets and outlets are complementarily engagable with each other to form segments of a continuous flow path (Fig. 3, #34).

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Regarding Claim 16, Huber discloses a skeleton (#14) overlying at least one filtration module, and a coverlet (#12) overlying the skeleton, whereby to shield at least one filtration module from the elements.

4. Claims 4-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Huber in view of Jainek et al., U.S Patent No. 5,292,432.

Regarding Claim 4, Huber does not disclose spring mechanisms. Jainek discloses a filtration assembly comprising spring mechanisms (#37) to assist in separation of the housing members from adjacent elements. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Huber with the element of Jainek in order to manually separate the housing halves (Col. 4, Lines 11-17).

Regarding Claim 5, Huber does not disclose springs. Jainek teaches that the housing members are fitted with springs (#37) between which the filter units are inserted. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Huber with the element of Jainek in order to be able to join the housings without additional fastening means (Col. 3, Lines 59-60).

Conclusion

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Yoon-Young Kim whose telephone number is (571) 272-2240. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30-4:30, Mon-Fri.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wanda Walker can be reached on (571) 272-1151. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

YK
02/06/06


JOHN KIM
Primary PATENT EXAMINER